GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:467
ANSWERED ON:20.07.2016
Biometric Details for Visa
Chudasama Shri Rajeshbhai Naranbhai

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has rolled out a project which ensures collection of applicant's biometric details before any kind of visa is issued;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether out of the 178 Indian missions, only 55 have been equipped with this biometric recording facility;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether a proposal was floated to have the biometrics of the tourists on arrival in India and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the Government has taken a final call on enforcing the biometric aspect in the visa issuing process and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) to (e) The Ministry of Home Affairs has implemented a Mission Mode Project on Immigration, Visa and Foreigners Registration & Tracking (IVFRT). This Project is a multi-Ministry project which brings together a number of immigration, visa and registration tasks on to one IT platform, for greater control and efficiency. The project also has provision for biometric enrolment and authentication.

As on date, out of our 178 Missions/Posts abroad, biometric enrolment system has been implemented in 79 Indian Missions/Posts. A list of these 79 Indian Missions/Posts abroad is attached as Annexure-I.

The Government of India launched the e-Tourist Visa (e-TV) facility on November 27, 2014 with a view to simplify the visa process for foreign tourists visiting India. The scheme has since been extended to 150 countries. A list of such countries is attached as Annexure-II. Biometric details of the foreigners visiting India on e-Tourist Visas (e-TV) are captured on arrival at 16 designated Indian airports.